

fund their organization. For fiscal year 1998, Congress budgeted only \$98.5 million. The arts are not a frivolous, disposable commodity. They represent a significant part of our economy.

On National Arts Advocacy Day, let us remember the importance of intellectual development that the arts foster. Let us remember how it not only enhances the beauty of our country, but the economy as well. I support all Americans involved in arts from children doing finger paintings, to the design of new monuments in Washington, D.C. that will remind all Americans of their history. Let us celebrate together the importance of arts by supporting a strong Federal role in their promotion.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, we are now less than two weeks away from your promised date for a vote on campaign finance reform, yet we have no direction from you about what will or will not be considered.

There are plenty of bills that have been drafted that begin to address the overwhelming amount of money being spent on our elections. I have been active with my freshman colleagues in drafting the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act, I think it is a good bill, but there are others. The question Mr. Speaker is, what kind of vote will we be allowed to take. Will the vote be a clean vote which clearly shows who supports campaign finance reform and who doesn't or will the vote contain poison pills that will cloud the issue. It is incumbent upon us as Members of Congress to make clear our position on this important issue.

We are counting on you, Mr. Speaker, to allow a fair, clean vote on campaign finance reform so the people of this nation know where we stand, once and for all. The people of my district will not accept "no" for an answer.

SHIFT IN INS'S BORDER FOCUS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the U.S./Mexico border in San Diego County, California is the nation's busiest corridor for illegal immigration activity. However, yesterday, Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner Doris Meissner declared that this entry is under control. While the INS decided to deploy 1,000 new border patrol agents, not one of them is headed to San Diego.

The 48th District of California lies just north of this high-traffic passage, and, Mr. Speaker, neither my constituents nor I would tell you that illegal immigration in this area is under control. Mrs. Meissner cites a 40% drop in border apprehensions in San Diego as proof that no additional agents are needed at this border. It is important to note that this figure does not take into account remote areas that are currently experiencing added strain as a

result of the greater presence of agents and the San Diego entry point.

While increasing the number of border patrol agents at the San Diego County borders might decrease movement at these sites, it only intensifies the influx at the neighboring border in Imperial County. The Border Patrol Chief at the Imperial County gateway noted that daily apprehensions have risen dramatically since 1996, from 150 to the current rate of over 900. Neglecting this corridor, while adding agents in Texas and New Mexico and maintaining the number of agents in San Diego, will only intensify this already acute problem.

Southern California suffers from the increasing flood of illegal aliens. Mrs. Meissner's denial to provide us with an adequate number of border patrol agents to handle this dilemma is detrimental to our state and to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue the battle against individuals who opt to enter the United States illegally, I commend our border patrol agents for their hard work and dedication. No matter how hard they work, though, we need more of these committed men and women at our high-traffic borders if we are to have any hope of curtailing illegal immigration. I support efforts to strengthen our border in states like Texas; however, we must not pursue that goal at California's expense. The INS should take a closer look at the continuing penetration of our borders in Southern California and reconsider its strategy.

RECOGNIZING HARRY STATHAM

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great basketball coach and a great man.

Harry Statham, the athletic director of McKendree College in Lebanon, Illinois, is the NAIA's winningest active basketball coach. On Saturday, January 10, 1998, the McKendree Bearcats defeated Barat College. That game marked the 700th win of Coach Statham's long and successful career at the college.

Statham began his coaching career while he was still an undergraduate as the boys basketball coach at O'Fallon Junior High. After graduating from McKendree College in 1960, he enrolled at the University of Illinois at Champaign. While earning a master of science degree in physical education at U of I, Statham served as a graduate assistant for the men's basketball and track teams. He coached at two high schools in Southern Illinois before returning to McKendree College in 1968 as the athletic director and men's basketball head coach.

Coach Statham has lead the Bearcats to 27 post-season appearances, including five trips to the NAIA National Championships. Last season the Bearcats finished in the NAIA's "Elite Eight," the best tournament finish in the school's history. In 1988 the Bearcats established an NAIA record for most points scored by two teams when they prevailed over Huron College 124-107. This record of 231 total points scored still stands today. McKendree also holds the record for successful free throws in one game when they shot 39 of 39

in 1979. In the 1986-87 season, McKendree led the nation in scoring with a 105-point per game average.

Forty-one of the men who have played under Coach Statham have received post-season honors, including four All-American athletes. Two of Coach Statham's players have been drafted into the professional ranks. Dale Haverman was drafted by the Seattle Sonics in 1977 and Paul Funkhouser was drafted by the Chicago Bulls and the Carolina Cougars of the American Basketball Association in 1970.

Coach Statham, who lives in Belleville, Illinois with his wife, Rose, was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1987. He has been named the NAIA-IBCA Coach of the Year six times and the NAIA District 20 Coach of the Year six times. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that this month Coach Statham will be inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Harry Statham for an impressive career.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR V. HODGES, AN AMERICAN HERO

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to inform this House of an Alabamian who personifies the best traditions of American military heroism, and whose proper recognition for meritorious service has finally been received after five decades of official oversight.

Late in World War II as this nation focused its military might on Japan, Private Arthur Hodges of Dothan, Alabama was a scout in a rifle squad with the U.S. Army's 306th Infantry Regiment in the Western Pacific. On April 20, 1945, the 306th was called to assault Legusugu on the Island of Ie Shima, just south of Okinawa.

The island was incredibly fortified and honeycombed with Japanese defenses. Enemy resistance to the landing American forces was severe. Hostile mortars, anti-tank guns, automatic weapons, and small arms covered the approaches with devastating fire delivered from concealed pill boxes and caves. Here's an excerpt from Private Hodges' war record:

Private Hodges led his platoon's assault. When he discovered a small group of the enemy in foxholes, he disregarded the heavy fire which swept the area and worked his way forward to a position within a few yards of the Japanese position. Accurately throwing grenades into the foxholes, he killed all four of the enemy. As he started forward again he was fired upon by two enemy riflemen. He took cover behind a rock and killed both of them with rifle fire. When he arrived at the peak of the mountain, he located an enemy machine gun which was blocking the advance of his unit. He promptly attacked this position, destroyed the gun, and killed its crew of two. As he returned to the top of the mountain, he killed two more of the enemy attempting to flee. Private Hodges' fearless aggressiveness and courage were an inspiration to his comrades and were in keeping with the highest military traditions.

Private Hodges went on to become a Staff Sergeant and a squad leader in charge of 12 men. Among his many decorations, Sergeant

Hodges received the Combat Infantry Badge, the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, and the Army Good Conduct Medal. Surprisingly, Sgt. Hodges, who was also awarded the Bronze and Silver Stars, never actually received those medals due to a paperwork glitch. After my office's personal inquiry on his behalf last September, I'm happy to report that Mr. Arthur Hodges will be presented his Bronze and Silver Stars by me on March 13—some 52 years after he earned them. I congratulate Mr. Hodges and am very proud to have played a part in seeing him finally receive the decorations which he has so long merited and deserved.

10 FOR 60 RESOLUTION REAL TAX REFORM IN 1998

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the "10 for 60" Resolution. My resolution directs the Internal Revenue Service and Congress to begin this year the process of cutting in half the time that it takes the average taxpayer to file their tax returns. As the first step, the "10 for 60" Resolution calls for 10 changes in law or regulation this year to cut 60 minutes from tax preparation time. The "10 for 60" Resolution intends that these proposals should be revenue neutral and should focus on changes that benefit as large a group of taxpayers as possible.

Today, it takes too long for the average taxpayer to file their taxes. In fact, the American taxpayer is taxed twice. Not only do we pay our taxes, but our time is taxed as well. At this time of year, instead of spending time with our families, working around the home, or just taking a break, we spend hour after hour punching numbers into a calculator, trying to decipher IRS directions and tables, and searching through our financial records to find that last receipt for a charitable contribution that we made.

According to the IRS, this annual spring exercise will take the average taxpayer 15 hours and 47 minutes to prepare and file a typical tax return (Form 1040 and Schedules A and B). Add in other forms, such as Schedule C, the business profit and loss schedule, and the total time for tax compliance can be in excess of 30 hours.

There are plenty of examples of ways that we can simplify tax code now. The mileage deduction was intended to help not only those with business expenses, but individuals with medical, charitable and moving travel costs. However, the tax code contains three separate reimbursement rates for travel. Why should a taxpayer be required to keep three separate records for using the same car?

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), designed to help low income families and reward work, is good policy. In fact, an analysis by the non-partisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, reveals that the EITC "lifts more children out of poverty than any other government program." Yet, this single credit has been changed twelve times in the past 20 years. The credit contains nine eligibility standards and could require one checklist, two worksheets, one schedule and a normal 1040 to complete.

Congress has many ideas on tax reform or changes. At last count, over 600 separate bills to amend the Internal Revenue Code have been introduced in this Congress. These proposals range from broad reform to very narrow modifications. The major proposals, a flat tax or a national sales tax, do have hidden repercussions. While some taxpayers may like the idea of simplifying the tax code, they do not support the elimination of crucial deductions, like the home mortgage interest deduction or the charitable contribution nor do they support the taxation of worker fringe benefits like health insurance coverage or taxing services like a free checking account. Furthermore, true simplification should make the tax law understandable and workable, deflecting wholesale, imprudent changes while retaining sound, proven tax policies.

Congress should focus on what the taxpayers really need—true tax simplification. Concrete proposals already exist to simplify the existing tax code with minimal revenue changes. The House included in the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act the requirement that any new tax legislation include a complexity analysis before enactment. Why not apply such an analysis to existing provisions of law?

Tax simplification this year is an achievable goal but not if Congress gets bogged down in debating unrealistic proposals to abolish the tax code or initiate other radical changes. These are Trojan horses being advanced as tax simplification. It is time to address real tax simplification as more than a rhetorical tool and to make it a policy priority. My "10 for 60" resolution places the American taxpayer, not politics, first by focusing on real, attainable tax simplification for this year. My resolution gives everyone something they need more of—time. I hope that my Colleagues will join with me in making tax simplification a reality in 1998.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. JASON BINKLEY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the name of Jason Binkley, of Ephrata, PA, in my congressional district. Jason is a member of Boy Scout Troop 38 in Ephrata. On Sunday, March 15, 1998, he will be receiving one of scouting's highest honors, the Eagle Scout Award. For this wonderful achievement we in the United States House of Representatives salute this fine young man.

To receive his Eagle Scout Award, Jason was required to complete a project that was of service to his community. Jason's project was renovating the amphitheater at the Ephrata Cloister. He was responsible for replacing the 400 bench seats, which had deteriorated from the years of being exposed to the elements, with new preserved wood tops. Jason accomplished this by raising funds locally and recruiting 20 other scouts who helped Jason with all of the cutting, bolting, and cleaning necessary to complete the project. Jason and his recruits donated over 120 hours of their time to complete the renovation of the Ephrata Cloister.

Again, I would like to congratulate Jason for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. I know he worked hard and with great self-determination to earn this distinguished honor. I am honored to have such a fine young man in my district who is willing to donate himself to the community. I wish Jason the best of luck in all of his future endeavors and trust that he will continue to make his family, friends, and this Member of Congress proud of him.

HONORING THE HOPE EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP FUND ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 7TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SYMPOSIUM

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize HOPE Education and Leadership Fund on the occasion of its 7th Annual Symposium to be held on Friday, March 13, 1998 in Los Angeles, California.

For the past seven years, the HOPE Education Leadership Fund has provided a collective voice for Latinas by ensuring quality representation in the political process and in the public and private sectors. HOPE has encouraged political education of its members by conducting effective workshops, unique seminars and challenging training forums, informing the community on critical issues affecting Latinas.

At its annual symposium, HOPE and its members have the opportunity to analyze and talk about issues relevant to Latinas. HOPE's annual symposium is held every March, in honor of Women's History Month. The Symposium explores those issues facing Latinas. Among the issues HOPE explores range from health care and business development to domestic violence.

The annual symposium also recognizes Latina role models from throughout our history, highlighting those women who have excelled in their respective fields and serve as role models for younger Latinas. It is the tradition of the HOPE Education and Leadership Fund to present the Gift of HOPE Award to a Latina in recognition of her outstanding achievements and accomplishments in her field. This year's Gift of HOPE Award will be presented to Corina Alarcon, Executive Director of WAVE. By witnessing this form of recognition, younger generations become proud of their heritage and are encouraged to continue pursuing a professional career.

In 1994, the HOPE Education and Leadership Fund introduced the Ray HOPE Award. This award is given to individuals within our community who have demonstrated outstanding achievements as members of HOPE, either by giving back to the Latino community or in their professional achievements. This year, the Ray of HOPE Award will be presented to Maria Elena Salinas, Noticiero Univision anchor.

In 1993, the HOPE Education and Leadership Fund began the publication of its newsletter entitled *HOPE Agenda*. The printing of the publication coincides with the Annual Symposium and is used to relate news and information about HOPE activities to members and